

"It was at that point that professor Elkins handed me the envelope," Watson said.

The envelope contained an Update of Student Academic Record form requesting that his 1982 grade in the government course be changed from C to A+. It was signed by Waite.

In the space for "Explanation of error, delay or special circumstances," Waite wrote, "In light of the student's heroic efforts to prove the professor and T.A. wrong in their assessment of his term paper, Mr. Watson deserves an A+."

(FYI, UT doesn't do plus or minus grades so, if the form is approved, Watson's grade in the course will become an A.)

Waite, who was a lecturer at UT from 1981 to 1983, now works on a Mission citrus farm that's been in her family since 1922. Thanks to Watson's achievement, she proudly calls herself "a footnote to a footnote of history."

But she says C was the proper course grade at the time because she thought his theory about getting the constitutional amendment ratified was far-fetched. "I thought it couldn't be done," she said. "So he just proceeded to prove me wrong."

"Hey, a lowly lecturer has had more effect on the Constitution than anybody in the professorial ranks," Waite said with a laugh.

Elkins said he teaches about Watson's effort as an inspiring example of "heroic citizenship."

"We just need the dean's signature, and it's done," Elkins said of the grade change effort.

If this gets rejected, nobody should ever wear burnt orange again.

Largey remains understandably fascinated by Watson's story, which he has told at Pop-Up Magazine events in San Francisco; Washington; New York; Portland, Ore.; and Seattle.

"He is one of a kind," he said of Watson.

Largey's KUT story about Watson is scheduled to air at 6:45 and 8:45 a.m. Tuesday. You also should be able to find it at KUT.org.

Happier ending upcoming, indeed. And you might have a chance to make it even happier. Watson, 54, long has struggled financially as he worked in the government world, where jobs come and go.

Watson never graduated from college. He's been pretty much a constant presence at the Texas Capitol since 1982, where he's worked for 15 different lawmakers. He moved to Austin City Hall in 2015 to work for then-Council Member Don Zimmerman. When Zimmerman was defeated last year, Watson was out of work. He's now an aide to Rep. Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth.

In addition to the government jobs, Watson has moonlighted in retail and has bused tables at a downtown restaurant. His current legislative job ends when the legislative session ends in May. He needs a job after that. Maybe you know of something.

I can tell you Watson knows his way around government and got the U.S. Constitution amended.

And, assuming the change gets OK'd, he got an A in GOV 310.

One more thing: Yes, Watson still has his 1982 term paper—somewhere.

"I have tried and tried and tried to find that thing," he said. "I don't know where I put it. It's not the type of thing I would have thrown in the garbage. So it's somewhere. And I'm one of these funny people that keeps everything, so I've got storage unit after storage unit. It's somewhere in a box in a storage unit."

"Hopefully, the termites haven't gotten to it."

They wouldn't dare.

HONORING SANTA CRUZ CHIEF OF POLICE KEVIN VOGEL

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Santa Cruz Chief of Police Kevin Vogel for his 30 years of service to the Santa Cruz Police Department, and the community it serves.

Chief Vogel has dedicated his entire career to the people of Santa Cruz, and was first sworn in as a cadet for the SCPD in June 1987. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Chief Vogel has served in numerous capacities in the Department, including as a patrol officer, traffic officer and detective. He was promoted to sergeant in January 1995 where he served as a patrol supervisor, downtown supervisor and detective sergeant. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2002, and to Deputy Chief of Police in May 2004. He was appointed as the City's 21st Chief of Police on December 9, 2010.

A champion of creative and transparent community-oriented policing, Chief Vogel oversaw the implementation of a highly successful and innovative predictive policing program. This program utilizes technology based on earthquake prediction technology, and was praised by numerous media outlets and law enforcement agencies around the country, including The New York Times, ABC World News, and was even named as one of Time Magazine's "50 Best New Inventions" of 2011. More important than the accolades however, was the significant reduction in crime rates experienced under the program. Under Chief Vogel's leadership, Santa Cruz policing became a model for the nation.

Chief Vogel also shouldered the impossible task of guiding the SCPD through its greatest hardship that occurred on February 26, 2013 when two officers, Sgt. Loran "Butch" Baker and Detective Elizabeth Butler, were tragically gunned down in the line of duty. This devastating crime shook our community to its core as we all mourned the loss of these fallen heroes. Through this time of uncertainty, Chief Vogel acted with honor and poise. He memorialized his fallen officers beautifully, and guided a deeply aggrieved department and community through this very difficult time. As time has passed, Chief Vogel ensured that the memories of Sgt. Baker and Detective Butler will not fade, and challenges his officers every day to honor their legacy and ultimate sacrifice by continuing to selflessly perform the work of upholding public safety in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has dedicated their career to public service, it is my pleasure to add my name to the chorus of thanks and congratulations to someone who embodies that ideal of service to others. I wholeheartedly congratulate Chief Kevin Vogel on his retirement, and wish him all the best. There is no doubt that his commitment to justice, security, and prosperity for his community of Santa Cruz will serve as an enduring legacy.

DANIEL ARREDONDO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Arredondo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Daniel Arredondo is a student at Wayne Carle Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Arredondo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Arredondo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING JAMES EDWIN GASPER ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James Edwin Gasper, who today celebrates 90 years on this earth.

James, or "Jimmy" as his friends know him, moved to Washington County, Florida in 1932 with his mother, father and brothers and, with the exception of his time serving our nation during World War II, has lived there ever since.

In 1945, Mr. Gasper enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was assigned to 1223 Military Police Company in Bad Kissingen, Germany—ultimately completing his tour of duty in 1947 as a member of the newly-minted United States Air Force in Fürstfeldbruck, Germany. Mr. Gasper's service earned him the WWII Victory and Army Occupation medals, and he was qualified as Marksman for both Pistol and Carbine.

After returning home from his time in the service, Mr. Gasper married the love of his life, the late Nellie Gasper, and raised a family that has grown from four children to include six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Gasper also went on to dedicate 40 years to the Florida Department of Transportation and served Washington County by setting up voting machines for all local elections.

Mr. Gasper is a lifelong member of the National Rifle Association of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW Military Order of the Cootie, Disabled American Veterans, the DAV National Order of the Trench Rats, and above all else, is a devout member of the Church of Christ.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a great American of the Greatest Generation on his 90th birthday, James Edwin Gasper.

HONORING DR. L. FRANCES P.
LIDDELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. L. Frances P. Liddell's dedicated commitment of service to her community and her services to the conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) and the National Planning Committee.

Dr. L. Frances P. Liddell was awarded by the renaming of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), in her honor, to the Dr. L. Frances P. Liddell Student Policy Debate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. L. Frances P. Liddell.

**IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS FOR
THE UNITED STATES**

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a globally engaged and welcoming United States. Historically, hosting international students and scholars at our colleges and universities has been one of the most important ways America reinforces those values. We all need to recognize the vital contributions that international students, scholars and their families make when we welcome them to this great country.

Welcoming international students and scholars strengthens our diplomatic ties with countries across the globe and increases our national security.

International students and scholars who have spent time in the United States become informal ambassadors when they return home, sharing an appreciation for common values, counteracting stereotypes about the U.S., and enhancing respect for cultural differences.

Likewise, the ability to perform and compete globally is a vital component of a 21st century education. While less than 2 percent of U.S. students study abroad each year, having international students on our campuses can better prepare U.S. students to succeed as global citizens.

International students also contribute to the economic well-being of the United States. According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, international students and their families supported 400,000 jobs and contributed nearly \$33 billion to the U.S. economy during the 2015 to 2016 academic year.

In my district, during the 2015 to 2016 academic year, 12,249 international students and their families contributed \$359.7 million, supporting 5,967 jobs.

May is a critical month on the college calendar. It is the traditional end of the academic year, when graduation ceremonies take place across the country. But it is also a time when prospective students make their final choice on where they plan to study in the fall.

Actions taken by this administration, most significantly the Travel Ban Executive Order,

have generated a great deal of uncertainty within U.S. colleges and universities. Many currently enrolled international students may choose not to travel home at the end of the academic year, for fear they might not be allowed to return in the fall.

Unsurprisingly, for prospective students, nearly 40 percent of higher education institutions reported application declines for the first time in many years.

Moreover, the anti-immigrant rhetoric and uncertainty created by our broken immigration system make the United States less attractive to the students and scholars who we want to contribute to our campuses and communities.

To ensure our nation's security, economic well-being, and academic leadership, we must remain an open and welcoming United States. So, to the international students and scholars who may be unsure about coming, I say: Your contributions are valued and you are welcome here.

**SUPPORTING MONTENEGRO
JOINING NATO**

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. MOULTON of Massachusetts, in strong support of the small but strategically important country of Montenegro. This past weekend, Montenegro celebrated the eleventh anniversary of its independence. This week, President Trump will attend the NATO Summit in Brussels, where Montenegro will be officially welcomed as a new Member.

Along with the gentlewoman from Maine, I chair the Congressional Montenegro Caucus. The goal of the Caucus is simple: to educate Members of Congress on U.S.-Montenegro relations and show the people of Montenegro that they have friends here in the United States, including the U.S. Congress.

Over the last year, the relationship between the United States and Montenegro has received greater attention here on Capitol Hill. I rise today to ask my colleagues to continue to devote time and attention over the year ahead on this important alliance.

Indeed, in an overwhelming display of bipartisanship on March 28th the Senate ratified accession of Montenegro to become the 29th member of NATO. On April 11th, President Trump signed a Presidential Memoranda codifying this significant landmark.

I am proud to also share that on April 27th our counterparts—the elected representatives in the Montenegrin Parliament—voted 46-0 to ratify accession to NATO.

Eleven years ago this week, the people of Montenegro voted in favor of peacefully becoming an independent state and dissolving the union with Serbia. Shortly thereafter, all five members of the United Nations Security Council recognized the newest country in the world, beginning a new chapter in the history of trans-Atlantic relations regional and history.

The events of the last few weeks and the last 11 years demonstrate the truest form of representative democracy. Civil debate here on Capitol Hill and in Podgorica among elected leaders representing the will of our con-

stituents has shown the world that democracy remains the best form of government, despite its imperfections. As Churchill said, "No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." [Churchill By Himself, 2013]

The inclusion of Montenegro into NATO will strengthen regional and trans-Atlantic security, and sends a strong message of the importance of democratic values. As my colleagues know, democratic values—transparency, equal justice and rule of law—must constantly be fostered. Accession into NATO has allowed Montenegro to advance toward these values. It is our responsibility as a Congress to help this new nation further embrace Euro-Atlantic integration and to increase its ability to fight organized crime and corruption.

Meanwhile, American business leaders likewise play a vital role. For example, the Stratex Group, the largest American investor in Montenegro with roots in Massachusetts, continues to work alongside our Embassy to foster stronger bilateral relations and a commitment by all Montenegrin elected officials—local and federal—to these democratic values we all hold dear. Only two places in Montenegro fly the American flag: the U.S. Embassy and the Stratex properties.

Beyond strengthening our formal diplomatic alliance, my colleagues here in Congress must endeavor to creatively promote stronger ties in at least two ways.

First, the State Partnership between the Maine National Guard and Montenegro has been successfully building relationships for over a decade, linking a unique component of the U.S. Department of Defense with the armed forces of Montenegro in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship. Through this program, the U.S. National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency and corollary engagements spanning military, government, economic and social spheres.

Second, we must support business and cultural diplomacy—in Montenegro and around the world, encouraging our diplomats to have a greater appreciation for American investments in emerging democracies. To attract additional investment, Montenegro must fully commit to the rule of law, transparency and an independent judiciary. With the continued focus from the United States, I am confident Montenegrin government leaders will continue down the path of reform.

The Congressional Montenegro Caucus congratulates Montenegro on their achievements as they finally have a seat at the table at this week's NATO meeting, and stands in support of a stable, secure Europe based on collective self-defense, economic freedom, the rule of law, and democracy.

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GRIFFIN CROSS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Griffin Cross